

# *The Innocent in Prison complayning :*

O R,

A true Relation of the proceedings of the Committee at *Ipswich*, the Committee at *Bury St. Edmunds*, in the County of *Suffolke*, against one *Andrew Wyke*, a witnessse of *Jesus*, in the same County; who was committed to Prison, June 3. 1646. and there to abide without Bayle or Mainprise, untill the next Sessions or Assizes to be holden in the aforesayd County: though nothing was proved against him, *viva voce*, when he was before the Committee at *Bury St. Edmunds*, save preaching, - who therein came under the breach of no Statute Law, nor Ordinance of Parliament, bring therunto ordayned by a Reformed Church, as was vindicated by him, when he was before the aforesayd Committee.

To which is annexed a Relation of the imprisonment of *John Dutten*, who was violently surprised in his bed, in the Towne of *Strade-brooke*, by the Constables of the sayd Towne, without any Warrant from any Iustice of Peace, or any other in Authority; notwithstanding *volente & volente*, was brought by the aforesaid Constables before *Nicholas Bacon* Iustice of the Peace in the same County, and by him imprisoned April, 24. 1646.

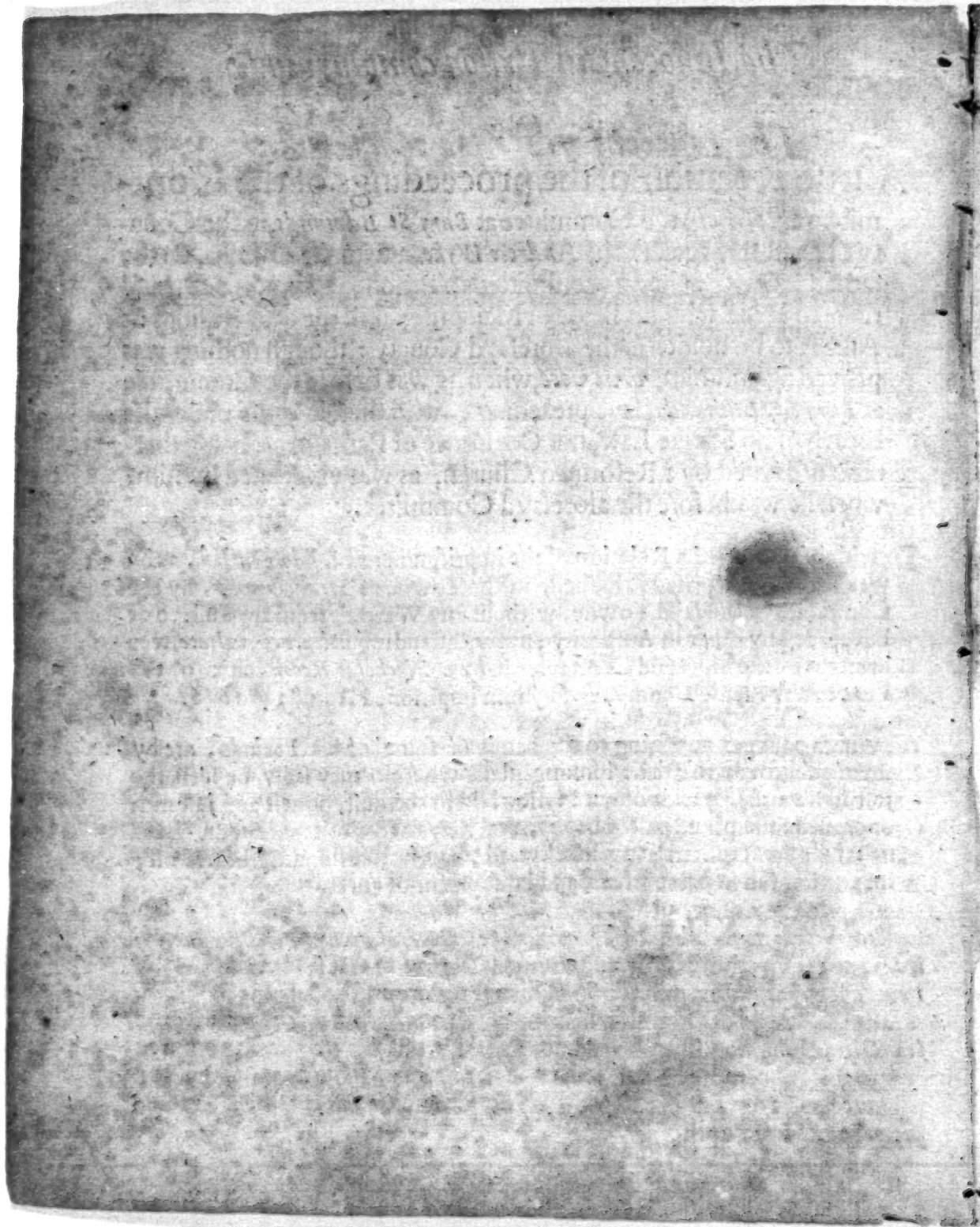
All which passages comming to the hands of some of his Freinds, are by them published, to be as a looking-glasse wherein may sadly be seen the just Laws and Liberties of our Nation laid in the dust, honest and just men oppressed; the proud called happy, and they that worke wickednesse set up: judgment turned away backward, and justice standing a farre off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

Heare I pray you, O heades of *Jacob*, and ye Princes of the house of *Israel*: is it not for you to know judgement? who hate the good and love the evill, who plucke off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones. *Micah* 3. 1. 2.

They know not neither will they understand, they walke on in darknesse: all the foundations of the earth are out of course. *Psal.* 82. 5. 6.

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*The Innocent in Prison complaining.*

OR,

**A true Relation of the proceedings of the Committee at Ipswich, and the Committee at Bury St. Edmunds, in the County of Suffolke, in the Examinations and Commitment of *Andrew Wyke* and *John Dutton*.**



Antichrist, the man of sin, the son of perdition, having for a long time possessed and sate upon the waters (I meane the people) of England, as well (I might say as ill) as upon other waters, viz. peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues, Revel. 17. 15. and now at length perceiving the light of truth breaking forth as the morning, which hee well knew would be his ruine, hath sought and endeavored to transforme himselfe into an Angel of light supposing that if the Wolfe be in the sheepes skinne, he shall passe among men for a meeke and innocent Lambe: and therefore hath now put off his former vizor, viz: Episcopacy being by it discerned, and now presents himselfe in the shape of a Presbyter, hoping thereby to be received: But being *semper idem* alwaies one and the same, though changed his habit, truth whose nature is to discover darkenesse finds him out here also. He therefore assumes to himselfe his former power given to him by the Kings of the earth, and now beginneth to persecute all that worshippingeth not him and his Image being (as he stiles himselfe) blessed reformer. And in his progresse comes into the County of Suffolke, where finding one Andrew Wyke, a witness of Jesus, preaching the Gospel, not thereunto ordayned by Pope, Bishop, or Presbyter, stirres up all the Agents he had in that part of the County to molest and trouble him, least the light of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the Image of God, should shine unto them. And this he endeavored for above eight months and could not effect his mischievous design, but at length this two horned beast pushed at the Saints of the most High, and procured a Warrant to issue forth from the Committee at Ipswich. The Copie whereof followeth.

A

By



By the Committee at Ipswich, May 16. 1646.

*These are to require you to bring Andrew With of your towne before us upon Saturday, being 24. of this instant May. at the Grey-hound in Ipswich by ten of the clocke in the forenoone to answer to such thinges as shall be objected against him and here of faile you not.*

To the Constable  
of Debach.

*Will. Bloys. Thomas Bloss. Io. Hodges.  
Peter Fisser. Ro. Duncorn.*

Which Warrant was brought the day following by a Livetennant under Col. Bloys, who heard him preach and could not object against what was taught, though the people were called upon to object if any thing scrupelled them, notwithstanding he delivered the Warrant to the Constable: which Warrant the Constable receiving, and not finding his sir-name in it durst not, lest he should be troubled, serve it upon him: but came and demanded his name of him, who said it was Wyke, not With, as was expressed in the Warrant, and therefore refused to obey it, his sir-name being not in it. Were-upon the afore said, And. Wyke the day following tooke a journey to London about his necessary occasions, being no other then what he intended three weekes before, as many in the said County, both friends and foes, can witnesse. And heere the wife were taken in their owne craftinesse, and the Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wife that they are vaine. And though some thought by this Warrant to prevent his intended journey, yet were prevented themselves, and caught in their owne net. May 19. hee came to London, and having received some advice from some both learned and godly, sent downe a Letter to the Constable, being a very godly man, of the aforesayd Towne of Debach, who being before the sayd Committee the Saturday following, was questioned and threatned by them for not executing the sayd Warrant; saying, that he was bound to execute all Warrants sent to him, though illegall: but the Constable defended his cause, and said, that he durst not execute a Warrant of that nature, his name being not specified in it, lest he should be troubled according to Law: who also shewed them a Letter he received from the aforesayd Andrew Wyke, the copy whereof followeth.

*Kind Sir,* After my best respects commended to you, &c. These are giving you to understand, that I hope to accomplish my businesse, that I shall be with you 29. instant. If you should be questioned touching the Warrant for Andrew With, it being not my name, which you shewed unto me, I doubt not but that the Committee will hold both you and me excused; you for not executing, and I for not obeying illegall Warrants, my sirname being



ing not in it, and therefore not belonging to me: being bound not to subject our selves to any arbytrary power; which the Commons in Parliament by their great Declaration lately published, have undertaken to free us from, and no more to subject us. I am informed that no free man is to be imprisoned but by the Law of the Land, and that in all criminal causes, we are to be tried by Juries, and not by Committees: which if the Committee shall proceed otherwise against me, I must appeal to the Law, by removing my body and cause by a *Habeas Corpus*, as others have done in the like case; which though it be chargeable, yet thereby we shall vindicate our just liberties, which both by duty and by oath, we are bound to defend: and none that is honest will bee offended with us for claying and holding the same. Thus having no more to trouble you withall, I for present rest, and shall ever remaine,

London, May 21. 1646.

Yours *And. Wyke.*

May 30. the sayd And. Wyke came to Debach in Suffolke, and being come downe had immediatly a Warrant served on him. The Copy whereof followeth.

Suff.

*These are to require you to bring Andrew Wyke of Debach before the Committee at Bury St Edmunds upon Tneseday being the second day of June next by two of the clocke in the afternoone,, to answer unto such thinges as shall be objected against him, and hereof saile you not. Dated 28 May 1646.*

*To the Constable of Debach.*

W.Bloys. Jo.Hodges.Th.Bacon.

Whereupon Iune 2. he with the Constable appeared, but could not bee heard untill Iune 3. who then appearing, was called in before the Committee at Bury St. Edmonds; and presenting himselfe before the Committee, was demanded by the Chayreman, Sir Iohn Wentworth, whether he had beene at the Vniversity? *Wyke.* I am a free man, and not bound to answer to any interrogatory. *Went.* Why, you have preached. *Wy.* I desire that whatloeuer I am accused of may be proved by witnesses face to face. Then stept up Col. Bloys and sayd, will you deny you have preached? *Wy.* I desire if I am accused of preaching, it may be proved. *Blo.* Call Roe. Who being called came: One of the Committee then demanded, what this Roe was: and answer was made, one of the towne of Debach. *Bl.* Roe, did not you heare this man preach? *Roe.* Yes if please your Worship. *Bl.* Look heere, Mr. Wyke, it is proved to you. *Wy.* I confesse it is so. But if I had

heerin come under the breach of the Ordinance of Parliament; touching Preaching, made April 16. 1645. all that your Worships can doe, is to send up my name to the Parliament, but not to molest or trouble me. *Bl.* Have you that Ordinance, Mr. Wyke? *Wy.* I have not, if please your Worship; but I know you cannot be ignorant of it. But notwithstanding I come not under the penalty of that Ordinance: for I was ordayned by a Reformed Church: and the Ordinance runnes thus, not ordained by this or some other Reformed Church. *Went.* By what Church were you ordayned? *Wy.* By a Congregation in London. *Went.* By what Congregation in London? *Wy.* By a Congregation of Saints. Saints, sayd many of the Committee, and scoffed at it. *Wy.* You may thinke to say what your Worships please: but if ye are not Saints heere, ye shall never be saved. And truly it is lamentable to consider, how strange the word Saints is among the sonnes of men: as if there were no Saints upon earth, when Paul often writes to the Saints of God at Coriath, Rome, &c. 1. Cor. 1. 2. Rom. 1. 7. And as if to assume that propriety and right which Christ gives unto his, having washed them from their sinnes, and besprinkled their soules with his blood, were sinne: What is this, but the old taunt and reproach cast upon the people of God in the dayes of Episcopacy? Oh you are the holy Brethren, and the holy Sisters. Oh how is holinesse contemned in the dayes of Presbytery, as well as in the dayes of Episcopacy? and that by a Committee of the chiefe men in the Country. Oh England, what will become of the, if thou doest thus dash the sonnes of God against the wall, and Christs little ones against the stones? But to proceed. Col. Bloys then spake to Christopher Roe, and sayd: what did you heare this man speake in Preaching? *Roe.* He sayd wee were not under the government of Committees. *Com.* What was his text? *Roe.* I cannot tell very well, but I thinke it was Acts 17. (which was not true.) *Com.* What was the words? *Roe.* I do not remember. *Com.* Vpon what occasion did he speake it? *Roe.* It was upon his exposition of a Chapter, who in expounding said, we were not to submit to the government of Committees. *Wy.* I never used that expression. *Com.* Somewhat to that effect, it is like was used by you. *Wy.* I said we were to submit to the government of Jesus Christ; Will any of your worships deny it? who thereupon were all silent. *Roe.* I cannot except against Mr. Wyke his doctrine, for it is very good, and consonant to Scriptures. *Went.* Thou art a simple man, and canst not judge of his doctrine.

And here observe, this Christopher Roe of Debach, one infatuated in his understanding, who came above 20. miles to accuse the said Andr. Wyke, and yet when he was before the Committee, was forced to confesse that his doctrine

- doctrine was good and just; and all that he excepted against him for, was something that he never said, and could not tell either Text, or Chapter he expounded upon, nor the occasion upon which he spake the words for which he accused them. Thus it is to send a foole in an errand. He that sendeth a message by the hand of a foole, cutteth off the feete, and drinketh damage, *Prov. 26. 6.*

*Bloys.* Mr. Wyke, you have not onely preached, but also administred the Sacrament of Baptisme, not to Infants, which you should not have done, being not thereunto ordained: but you have dipped men and womer. *Wentw.* What in the Font? and laughed. *Bloys.* No Sir. In ponds: in Vertue and Browne, their pond. A most vertuous pond said one of the Committee. *Went.* Have you dipped persons? yon heare what is said. *Wy.* I desire that whatsoever I am accused of may be by witnesses proved. *Bl.* Will you deny that. *Wy.* I will answer to no interrogatory, either to accuse my selfe, or any other. *Wentworth* then said, he is a most bold fellow.

*Bl.* It was proved before me, and Mr. Tho. Bacon, two Justices of Peace upon munday last, at Wickam in the County of Suffolke. And here observe, these justices sent a warrant the weeke before to cause to appeare June 2. 1646. The aforesaid And. Wyke to answer to such things as shall be objected against him: and then sends another Warrant to warne some in the towne of Framlingham to appeare before them, June the first, that out of these they might get something wherewith to accuse him: and many being brought before them, refused to answer to any of their Interrogatories, wherby to accuse themselves or any other, for the which they were thretned only for standing to the liberty of the Subject; the which we are all bound to defend, though Justices of Peace would force men to breake both the Law of God and man, it being contrary to both, to accuse ones selfe, or any other: and to me is as great an evill, as by force to take another mans wife and lye with her. There was also one Mr. Stephens, Minister of Kettleborough, summoned to appeare, with whom the aforesaid Andr. Wyke had a dispute, and some Letters passed betweene them; which letters the Justices of Peace demanded of Mr. Stephens to see, who like a worthy Gentleman, and loyall subject to the State, refused to shew; at the which they were not a little displeased. At length they got one Smith in Framlingham, a prophane person, a drunkard, and one Steele of Chasfield as vile, and as wicked as any in all the Countrey, to sweare against him: Like unto the unbelieving Jews, who tooke unto them certaine lewd fellowes of the baser sort, and gathered a company, *Acts 17. 5.* The informers were one Mr. Pullum of Framlingham, and Mr. Mace junior of Cranford, both which for scoffing and.



and jeering at God and goodnesse, had not their equals in the Country. There was also present with the Justices foure Priests, viz. Mr. Goute of Framlingham, Mr. Swaine of Cransford, Mr. Ward of Baringham, and Mr. Bromebrick of Clopton, three whereof were with some others combiners, and voted the Common-prayer Booke to be *jure divino*, not above three months before the Parliament had voted it downe, it being *jure humano*. The last of the foure was so swollen with envy, that he could not abide to heare the towne of Debach named, Christ being so much preached there. Another of them, viz. Mr. Swaine was at a dead list chosen a Moderator in a disputation holden betweene Mr. Stephens, and Andr. Wyke, who well knowing he could not convince him by Scripture and argument, (but granted that which formerly he with many others stumbled at, viz. That it was lawfull for a Minister of the Gospel in some case to use any secular employment) did ever after endeavour to overcome him by that strong argument, take him Goaler. All which foure Priests were present with the Justices of Peace, provoking and stirring up the people, Diabolicall like to accuse the brethren. But now to proceed in the examination. Then Col. Bloys said, I will reade to you what was witnessed before two Justices of his Majesties Peace at Wickam, June 1. 1646. And then read, the substance whereof, as neere as can bee remembred followeth: That one Smith of Framlingham (a prophane person,) should sweare, that his wife said, she was dipped by Andr. Wyke, and that he with his wife went downe into the water, having some cloathes fit for that purpose, upon each of them, and that the said Andr. Wyke tooke her by the hand, and dipped her in the water, saying, I baptise thee in the Name of the Father, Son, and holy Spirit, into the gathered Church. *Com.* Oh, into the gathered Church! and scoffed. *Wy.* I know of none that use any such expressions. And here see how odious the word gathered Church is, though the Spirit saith by Paul, Be ye seperate, 2 Cor. 6. 17. Thus you have presented before you the first witnesse, viz. one (as he confessed himselfe) that never saw any such thing done, but only heard his wife say it was so. And will this stand good in Law, that a man shall be accused, and by that accusation condemned, and yet his accuser never saw that committed by him whereof he accuses him; but onely swears he heard one say it was true: The party so saying not warned to appeare, that he or she might openly witnesse the same, though neither sick, nor dead, nor otherwise justly hindered from appearing. Another witnesse was, that he heard one Ephraim Goodwin of Framlingham say, that he saw Sarah Smith, the aforesaid woman, dipped by A. Wyke; but this was not testified by the Oath of Ephraim Goodwin before any Justice, it being the same with the former, onely

onely heareſay. Another witneſſe was one of Dalingho, who ſaid, he was comming upon one Lords Day to Debach, to heare Mr. Wyke preach, and ſaw a company of people about the water, but ſaw not any dipped, but ſome of the people ſaid to him, there was ſome at that time dipped; here is another witneſſe that ſaw not any dipping, or dipped. A fourth witneſſe was one Steele of Chafeſfield, that ſaid he ſaw A. Wyke at Debach, dip one Bell, and two more laſt Lords Day was three weeks, being May 10. which Lords Day was A. Wyke at Stratford, ſome 5. or 6. miles diſtance from Debach, and there Preached both morning and afternoone, and came not to Debach the place of his abode that night, as was proved before the Committee by diſverſe witneſſes, and could be by hundreds. Hundreds, ſaith Mr. Th. Bacon, you ſee how many followers he hath. And this vexed the Rulers of old in Chriſts time, who ſaid of Chriſt, the world was gone after him, and if wee let him thus alone, all men will beleve on him, *John* 11.48.

*Bloys.* Mr. Wyke, you heare what is read unto you.

*Wyke.* Yeſ if pleaſe your worſhip, but nothing is proved *vivâ voce*, and thoſe witneſſes are invaled: one whereof, *viz.* Steel is infamous in all the Countrey for his baſeneſſe, and prophaneneſſe, ſwearing and forſwearing himſelfe. Aye, ſaith Mr. Tho. Bacon, that is true, for he threw a dog into the pond where you dipped, a moſt prophane action indeed.

*Wyke.* You may think to ſpeake what you pleaſe now, but Chriſt ſaith, That every idle word that men ſhall ſpeake, they ſhal give an account thereof in the day of judgement: when we ſhall appeare naked and open before him with whom we have to doe, though you thus jeere and ſcoffe now.

*Went.* You were beſt confeſſe.

*Wy.* I deſire things may be proved now I am preſent before you: for it was not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to dye, before the accuſed have the accuſers face to face, and have licence to anſwer for himſelfe, concerning the crime laid againſt him.

*Went.* What doe you tell us of the Romans? are you aſhamed of what you doe?

*Wy.* Chriſt was not aſhamed of what he did, yet Ieſus himſelfe when he was demanded of the High Prielt of his Diſciples, and of his doctrine, answered: I ever taught in the Synagogue, and in the Temple, whither the Iews alwayes reſort, and in ſecret have I ſaid nothing. Why aſkeſt thou me? Aſke them that heard me, *John* 18.20,21. Chriſt, ſaid one of the Committee, and I were all ſilent.

*Mr. Lucas.* Will you diſpute with any of our Miniſters?

*Went.* He doth not owne them to be Miniſters.

*Mr. Lucas.*

Mr. Lucas then said againe, Will you dispute with any of those whom we owne as Ministers?

Wy. Yes, if please your worship, very willingly with any of your Ministers whosoever. No, no, said many of the Committee, he shall not dispute with them. Thus you may see how unwilling they are to have darkenesse discovered, and truth brought to light; for he that doth evill hateth the light, neither commeth to it, lest his deeds should be reprov'd, *Iohn 3.20.*

Com. How long have you beene at Debach, and there preached?

Wy. I think neere upon nine months.

Com. Too long of any conscience, and shaked their heads. And oh what griefe of heart is it that Christ is preached so long in the Countrey? And therefore, like the Gergesens of old, besought Christ that he would depart out of their coasts, *Mat. 8.34.* And so did they him desire, that he would publicquely recant, and lay downe what he held, and they would not proceed against him. But whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto men more then unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speake the things we have seene and heard, *Acts 4.19,20.* After this he was commanded to withdraw, and did withdraw for the space of halfe an howre, or more, and then was called in againe: who accordingly presented himselfe before the Committee. But they being somewhat busie did not presently speak to him. Then Mr. Lucas one of the Committee privately talked with him, to whom said Andr. Wyke, To me it seemeth a very sad thing, that men should be thus handled, and persecuted for conscience sake, doing nothing but what they had a warrant for out of Gods word. Aye but said Mr. Lucas, it is contrary to Law, and we must preserve our Laws.

Wy. Nothinge hath bin proved against me save preaching, and that is a breach of no Law as hath bin before declared. And is not this the same with that of the Iewes? to whom when Pilate said concerning Christ, I find no fault with him. The Iewes answered Iohn: 19. 7. we have a Law and by our Law he ought to dye. Then a while after Sir Iohn Wentworth Chaireman spake.

Wentworth. We have considered of the businesse and in favour unto you (because you pleade for Law) have granted that you shall be tryed next Sessions or Assizes according to Law by able and Learned Iudges who have skill therein, and there to answer for your offence in preaching and dipping divers both men and women, and in the meane time to be committed to the custody of Capt Gray.

Wy. it hath not bin proved that I ever dipped any.

Wentw. Nay, nay, take him Capt. Gray.

Wy. If.



*Wyke.* If please your Worships to take Bayle ?

*Com.* You are to be committed without Baile or Mainepriſe.

*Wyke.* I pray ſhew me that Statute.

*Com.* He ſhall ſee it ſaid ſome of them ; heere it is, and was turning the Statute Booke : he ſhall not ſee it, ſaid others : are wee bound to acquaint him with what we doe ? So that he could not ſee any Statute for their impriſoning of him.

*Wyke.* I deſire one thinge of your Worships.

*Committee.* What is that ?

*Wyke.* That if it be your pleaſure to commit me to Priſon, that you would commit me to the Goale at Ipſwich.

*Committee.* Wherefore ?

*Wyke.* Becauſe it is neare my Freinds.

*Committee.* No, no, he will fall a preaching there; take him Cap. Gray. Here I ſhould have inſerted a copy of his commitment, but that the aforeſaid Andrew Wyke was herein moſt cruelly dealt withall, and deprived of having a copy : though it was deſired by himſelfe and his Freinds. For immediately after his commitment, he deſired a copy of Capt Gray to whom he was committed : to whom ſaid Capt. Gray you ſhall have a copy, the Clarke ſhal give you one preſently, whereupon for a while reſted ſatisfied, and at length again deſired a copy of Capt Gray : who then ſaid, the Committee had forbade him ſo to doe. Whereupon Andrew Wyke went to the Chaireman and deſired it. But he with many others of the Committee denied it him, and would not by any meanes graunt it him. Only two of the Committee viz : Mr Dunkorn and Mr Lucas ſaid it was a thing that could not be denied to any priſoner, and but very reaſonable, yet notwithstanding could not get a copy of his commitment. The day following being Iune 4 1646 ſome of his Freinds went and deſired a copy of his commitment of the Committee, but were denied, only Colon. Bloys turned them to a Statute viz: that men reſuſing to come to their Pariſh Church ſhould be committed without Baile or Maine-priſe, and there ſaid Colonell Bloys you may ſee the cauſe of his commitment. The which Statute he offended not, for he came to his Pariſh Church: (as they call it) every firſt day of the weeke : neither was he in the leaſt accuſed for doing any thing of that nature : now Capt. Gray to whom he was committed ſaid, that it was expreſſed in his commitment, that the cauſe thereof was his offence committed againſt the Law in dipping of divers both men and women. Therefore ſee how contrary the one is to the other. Thus is he not only impriſoned but alſo deprived of all lawfull meanes whereby he may procure his enlargement. But the Committee well per-

ceiving by his letter sent downe to the Constable, that if committed he would procure a *Habeas Corpus*, and have it tryed by Law, would out of malignice prevent it, by depriving him of a copy of his commitment; the way to procure his removeall to the Kings Bench. Therefore heare oh Heavens, and hearken oh earth, a wonderfull and horrible thing is committed in the Land. the scoffers and mockers at God and goodnesse with the Preists of Baal are informers, the basest of the people are by them incited and provoked, and made accusers; the Committees of the Country take this accusation, and by it imprison a man, and being imprisoned, will not suffer him to use any meanes for his enlargement. Oh England what will become of thee if thou dost thus use thy faithfull true and loyall Subjects? for whose welfare, safety, and Peace, hath theafore said Andrew Wyke ventured his life oft in the feild, and for whose service the State is indebted to him above fourty pounds as can be made appeare. Therefore remember him that hath been faithfull to God and his Country, who hath not on one side for feare of man swerved from any of the truths of God made knowne unto him: nor on the other side for feare of his life dissuaded from maintaining to his utmost the just Laws, and Liberties of his Nation and Kingedome. But let him have your Christian prayers and endeavors (according to your severall places) for his enlargement, and know as Mordecai said to Q. Ester Chap: 4.14. If thou altogether hold thy Peace at this time, then shall enlargement and deliverance arise to the Iewes from another place, but thou and thy Fathers house shall be destroyed, and who knoweth whether thou art come to the Kingdome for such a time as this is? So say I if any of you in authority and place of rule or meerly Subjects of this Kingedome hold your peace, your Laws and Liberties both Spirituall and Civill being herein involved, deliverance shall come, but yee and your Fathers house, I will not say shall be destroyed, but may be enthralled and brought unto Turkish slavery. And as you love the Liberty of Christ, to the which ye are spiritually bone, and the Liberty of the Subject, to which we all Englishmen are temporally borne, stand to your Liberty & be not intangled with the yoke of bondage. That our Children that are yet unborne may in the ages to come blesse us and long enjoy the free Liberty of the Subject: for the which there hath bin so much blood shed in this unnaturall War, which we hope is now at a period, unlesse the banks doe over-run againe with oppression and tryanny.

Heere also followeth a true Relation of the apprehending and imprisoning of *John Dutton*, formerly a Minister of the Church of England, but since hath layd it downe, finding by the word of God both Church and Ministry to be Antichristian : By the which may appear to the World the unjust proceedings of the Constables in the Towne of *Strade-brooke* : as also of the injustice of *Nicholas Bacon*, Iustice of Peace, in imprisoning him ; in all which there was neither justice or equity.

**T**His Mr. John Dutton, being for some time in the County of Suffolk, came by providence April 23. 1646. to the Towne of Stradbrook : and before he was risen the next morning, being April 24. came the Constables with divers others of the aforesayd Towne, pretending a Hue and Crie, for one that committed theft long before, and enquired for a man lying in their house, saying they would search for him ; and in searching at length came into the chamber where the aforesayd John Dutton lay, and commanded him to goe along with them : who sayd, suffer me to make my selfe ready, and I will come downe to you. And when he was dressed, came downe : then spake the Constables.

*Constables.* Come alonge with us.

*Dutt.* I will doe any thing that is lawfull, but shewme your Warrant.

*Const.* Heereupon departed having no warrant, only left two men with him.

*Dutt.* I know no reason why I should be hindered from goeing about my necessary occasions : and so went his way, and as he was passing by them one of them tooke hold of him and violently detained him, and forced him along to another house: where comming with them he found the Constables and many others. The Constables then read a peece of Hue and Cry to him.

*Dutt.* Shew me this Hue and Cry.

*Const.* We will not, and went forth and consulted what to doe, and a while after came in again.

*Const.* Will you goe with us?



*Dutt.* I know not any reason why I should, seeing you have not a Warrant: therefore if I goe it shall be by force. By force said the Constables and thrust him out of doores: who seeing them so many and so violent, came along with them to Justice Bacon his house: And the Constables presenting themselves before the Justice, received not any checke or controll from him, though they had not any pretence of Law for what they did: but the Justice owne their action, though contrary to Law which Law he is bound to defend. But as it was once said like Priest like People: So it may here be said like Judge like People, as is the Judge so is the People, & as is the People, so is the Judge. After this the Justice searched Mr Dutton, and tooke away his bookes, viz a Greeke Testament and some other things of his: and would not a long time after suffer him to have the aforesaid things, though much desired by himselfe and his Freinds. Then the Justice examined him, and put many frivolous questions to him; viz: his name, place of birth, trade, acquaintance: which for brevities sake I shall omit. Amonge the rest the Justice put these following queries to him

*Justice.* What time came you to Stradebrooke?

*Dutt.* In the evening.

*Justice.* By what meanes came you there?

*Dutt.* I was desired by some Freinds.

*Just.* To whose house in Stradebrooke came you?

*Dutt.* To one Feltham his house.

*Just.* What did you there?

*Dutt.* Discourfed a while of the Word of God, and other things without harme to any.

*Just.* What did you afterwards?

*Dutt.* Sought the Lord and went to bed.

*Just.* Are you not against the Baptisme of Children?

*Dutt.* No Children ought to be Baptised, yet little Children that beleve in Christ; all that are his Disciples.

*Just.* How long would you have them remaine unbaptized?

*Dutt.* So long as untill the word of God they appeare to be Disciples.

*Just.* I will shew you a letter of dangerous consequence. The copy wherof, as neere as can be remembred, followeth.

*Goodman Fox, I understand some have threatened to fire divers houses in Stradebrooke, and your house in particular under the name of Malignants their houses, have a care of your selfe and your neighbors. And at Goodman Feltham his house there is a fallions, Jesuited person, take your Freinds and search the house speedily,*

*and*

and you may find him, lest it be too late.

This Libell was framed by the Constables or those that accompanied him, and brought as an accusation against the aforesaid Iohn Dutton. The Iustice then spake.

*Iust.* I perceive you are a very dangerous man.

*Dutt.* This letter concerns not me.

*Iust.* Unless you have sureties you must goe to Goale.

*Dutt.* I have no sureties for the present.

*Iust.* You shall then to Goale: and made him a *Mittimus* the copy whereof followeth.

Suff.

For as much as Iohn Dutton being taken in the Towne of Strade-brooke, and accused to keepe Conventicles and brought before me this present day, for want of sureties: These are in his Majesties name to will and require you to convey him the said Dutton to his Majesties Goale at Ipswich, and that you the Goaler doe him receive and safely keepe untill you have order from the Committee at Saint Edmunds Bury, the Committee at Ipswich, or my selfe. And heereof faile not at your perilles, dated at Dennington this present 24 day of Aprill. Anno Domini 1646.

To the Keeper of his Majesties Goale at Ipswich, or to his sufficient Deputy or Deputies in his absence, and to the Constables in the Towne of Strade-brooke.

Nicholas Bacon.

Here you may see in the *Mittimus* it is inserted, accused of Conventicles, of which he was never guiltie unless you will call, Gods people being met together to speake and discourse of the thinges of God, Conventicles: but that is no Conventicle according to the Statute. But the Iustice must needs frame something, being conscious to himselfe, as he professed afterwards, that he did not suspect Maister Dutton guiltie in the least of that letter (or rather libel) found in Foxe his yard, and laid to his charge. The day following the Constables brought the aforesaid Iohn Dutton to the Committee at Ipswich, who understanding he had no Sureties, sent him to Goale upon the Iustice of peace his Order. And being in Prison, many of his Freinds tendered Bayle in the first place to the Iustice, who refused to take Bayle being that he was before the Committee: Then Bayle was tendered to the Committee who said they could not doe it (but how true that is looke in the *Mittimus*) but Iustice Bacon might. And thus is Iustice passed from one to another,

ther, & yet in neither to be found. And Mr Dutten being in Prison, his Goaler perceiving many of his Freinds daily visiting of him, with whom he sweetly discoursed concerning the thinges of God: and having no power to hinder them from so doing: At length by much intreaty procured an order or two from a Justice of peace to hinder his freinds from coming to him: and when the aforesaid Iohn Dutten was freed being May 30 untill next quarter Sessions, the Goaler demaunded and made him pay a noble for two Warrants which he procured for his Freinds restraint. Oh cruelty in the very height! The good man is perished out of the earth, and there is none upright among men, they all lye in waite for blood: they hunt every man his brother with a net. That they may doe evill with both handes earnestly, the Prince asketh and the Iudge asketh for a reward: and the great man he uttereth his mischevious desire, so they wrap it up. The best of them is a bryer, the most upright is sharper then a thorne hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation commeth: now shall be their perplexity. *Micah 7.*

2. 3. 4.

*Doubr.* Shall England have peace?

*Sol.* What peace so longe as the whoredomes of thy Mother Iezebel, and her witchcrafts are so many? 2 Kings 9. 22. Oh England, England, let my counsell be acceptable unto thee; breake off thy sinnes by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poore, turne from the violence that is in thy hands, if it may be a lengtheninge of thy much longed for tranquillity!

*F I N I S.*

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